

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-10, 12-15, and 17-18 were pending. Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9-10, 12, 14-15, and 17-18 have been cancelled. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the cancelled claims in a continuation application. Claims 2, 8, and 13 have been rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of corresponding base/intervening claims. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 2, 8, and 13 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

I. The § 103 Rejections

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9-10, 12, 14-15, and 17-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,718,373 (“Bearden”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,948,101 (“David”).

Claims 2, 8, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bearden and David, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,651,093 (“Wiedeman”).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Claim 2, as amended, recites a computer manufacturing system including a first server storing a plurality of boot images, and including a system under test (SUT). The system under test (SUT) includes a network adapter and a boot loader. The first server assigns a MAC address to the network adapter during a manufacturing process of the system under test (SUT), and the boot loader uses the MAC address assigned to the network adapter to determine a given boot image of the plurality of boot images to load onto the system under test (SUT) from the first server.

A. Bearden and David Fail to Disclose a Boot Loader Using a MAC Address Assigned To a Network Adapter To Determine A Given Boot Image of a Plurality of Boot Images To Load Onto a System Under Test (SUT)

Bearden discloses a method and system for installing filed in a computing system (see Abstract). David discloses a technique for sending operating system images to a computer in a distributed computing system (see Abstract). The Examiner recognizes that neither Bearden nor David discloses a boot loader using a MAC address assigned to a network adapter to determine a given boot image of a plurality of boot images to load onto a system under test (SUT). The Examiner, however, asserts that this limitation absent from Bearden and David and recited in claim 2, is disclosed by Wiedeman.

B. Wiedeman Fail to Disclose a Boot Loader Using a MAC Address Assigned To a Network Adapter To Determine A Given Boot Image of a Plurality of Boot Images To Load Onto a System Under Test (SUT)

Wiedeman disclose techniques for dynamically connecting/disconnecting a system under test (SUT) to/from a private virtual local area network (VLAN) in a computer manufacturing environment (see Abstract). Specifically, Wiedeman discloses checking a MAC address of a SUT against a switch file to determine whether the switch file contains a MAC address-to-VLAN correlation ("MAC-VLAN") entry for the SUT. Responsive to a determination that the switch file does contain a MAC-VLAN entry for the SUT, the SUT is connected to a VLAN indicated in the MAC-VLAN entry, and responsive to a determination that the updated switch file does not contain a MAC-VLAN entry for the SUT, the SUT is connected to a default VLAN (col. 2, ll. 47-57).

Wiedeman, however, fails to disclose a boot loader using a MAC address assigned to a network adapter to determine a given boot image of a plurality of boot images to load onto a system under test (SUT) (emphasis added). Instead, as discussed above, Wiedeman discloses only using a MAC address of an SUT to determine which VLAN the SUT should be connected to.

Moreover, rather than using a MAC address to determine a given boot image of a plurality of boot images to load onto a system under test (SUT), Wiedeman teaches using configuration information stored in a barcode file to determine the type of operating system and applications software to be preinstalled on a SUT (col. 5, ll. 17-25). A barcode file is not equivalent to a MAC address.

C. The claim has limitations not taught by either reference

To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art.

Neither Bearden, David, nor Wiedeman discloses a boot loader using a MAC address assigned to a network adapter to determine a given boot image of a plurality of boot images to load onto a system under test (SUT), as recited in claim 2. Consequently, the combination of Bearden, David, and Wiedeman cannot render claim 2 obvious.

D. Other Independent Claims

Claims 8 and 13 each incorporates limitations similar to those of claim 2. Claims 8 and 13 are also allowable over Bearden, David, and Wiedeman (either alone or in combination) for reasons corresponding to those set forth with respect to claim 2.

Applicant submits that claims 2, 8, and 13 are allowable over references cited above, and are in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
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